

APPENDIX I

WILD AND SCENIC RIVER EVALUATION FOR KASHA-KATUWE TENT ROCKS NATIONAL MONUMENT

BLM planning guidance suggests that Wild and Scenic River (WSR) studies be conducted for waterways within a planning area. The Peralta Canyon stream channel located within the Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument Planning Area is being assessed to see if it is worthy for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System. To be eligible for designation, a river or segment must be free-flowing and contain one or more outstandingly remarkable values. Through its planning process, the BLM is to assess those river segments contained within BLM-administered lands in the monument.

“Free-flowing” is defined as existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping or other modifications of the waterway that would encourage future construction of such structures. As a general rule, the water course should contain regular and predictable flows (even though intermittent, seasonal or interrupted). A segment should not be ephemeral (with a flow lasting only a few days out of the year).

A general inventory of the existing public lands within the national monument has found no perennial streams, springs, or seeps. Water flows within the Peralta Canyon stream channel may occur at any time of the year as a result of summertime thunderstorms, melting snow and frontal system

rainfall. Following rainstorms, stream flow for brief durations is characteristic. Peralta Canyon may experience longer periods of flow from snowmelt runoff from the higher terrain surrounding the monument.

“Outstandingly remarkable values” are defined as natural and cultural values, such as scenic, recreational, geologic, fish habitat, wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values, that are either unique at the regional level or exemplary at the national level. To qualify as an outstandingly remarkable value, that value should be located in the river segment or on its immediate shoreline, contribute substantially to the functioning of the river ecosystem, and/or owe its location or existence to the presence of the river.

At this time neither the Peralta Canyon stream channel nor its immediate shoreline on public lands within the monument appears to possess any outstandingly remarkable values.

In investigating public land within the Planning Area, the BLM found no rivers or segments that would meet the eligibility criteria as defined in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act for inclusion as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The eligibility study simply determines whether the river or segment of river should be carried forward into the classification and suitability phases of the study.